

LIBERTY

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February 2002

The next meeting of the board of directors will be held at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, February 12 at Libertarian Party Headquarters.

Party members are welcome at the meeting. Please call John Berntson for details at 719.532.0118.

www.lpcolorado.org
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Leadville Libertarians Sworn Into Office



A Libertarian majority took office on the Leadville city council January 7. L-R: Joe Swyers, Ken Cary, Lisa Dowdney, and Carol Hill.

Libertarians Carol Hill and Ken Cary took their oaths of office January 7 to join the Leadville city council. Together with councilors Joe Swyers and Lisa Dowdney, they formed the first Libertarian-majority city council in Colorado and the second in the nation.

"This town proves that we can do it—we can win," said Joe Swyers, the ranking Libertarian on the council, who has served since 2000. He said the council now has an "incredible opportunity of accomplishing things instead of just debating them." He

"Leadville" continued on page 12

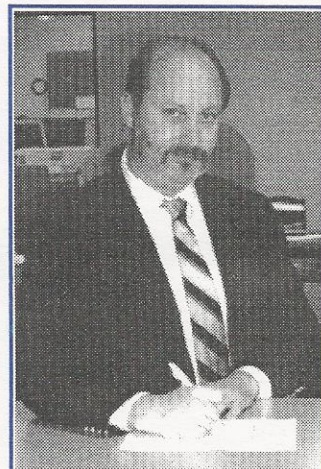
Shnelvar Joins Vance for Gov. Race; Glass Quits

Ralph Shnelvar filed his paperwork with the Secretary of State January 16 to become a candidate for governor on the Libertarian ticket. He joins James Vance in the race, who filed paperwork July 3.

Bob Glass withdrew from the race in early January. In a public e-mail dated January 1, Glass wrote, "After letting the dust settle and after much thinking, reflecting and soul-searching, I came away with the feeling that I need to get my life in order and build some sort of a foundation for me—not the LP candidate, not the TRT spokesman, not the Bill of Rights activist or radio talk show host, but simply as Bob Glass." Glass had entered the race on September 27.

Shnelvar said, "I'm running because Bill Owens has betrayed the people on several fronts. First, he is spending \$500,000 of tax money to promote

Colorado tourism by advertising in Colorado. Clearly he is using public funds to promote his own candidacy. Second, he has not listened to the people who voted to liberalize drug laws in general and marijuana laws in particular. Third, he pandered to the anti-gun crowd by being the first to sign on to Amendment 22 when he had promised to defend gun rights. I'm running because freedom and liberty are being rapidly eroded in this state and in this country. I am running to give the voters a choice."



Ralph Shnelvar signs paperwork to join the race for governor.

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**State Convention Planned
May 17-19, Leadville**
See pages 4-5 for details.

Notes from the Chair: All or Nothing

Libertarian argument #127: Do we advocate a massive budget cut, stripping government down to the finances of the average twelve-year-old, or do we cut one program at a time, so that people can gradually get used to the changes?

It is an old argument, but one we need to address now, because it will greatly influence how we do things during this coming election year. We have to have a common message, one that will resonate with voters.



Okay, I know the arguments. The reasonable people will say: If we advocate cutting government all at once, the opposition will call us heartless ideologues, out of touch with people and their needs, their expectations. We will frighten voters away. After all, government programs were

added over time, bit by bit. It only makes sense that we cut government down the same way, incrementally, over years and decades.

The puritans will say: We must advocate a completely libertarian society. If we allow one government program to escape notice, we abandon the moral high ground and nobody will ever believe us or trust us. We must advocate a philosophically consistent program and trust the voters to understand and support it.

Well, the truth, as always, lies somewhere in between. People will neither vote to eviscerate the world they grew up in, in favor of an unproven concept, nor will they vote for us if they want socialism lite.

To understand why incremental cuts won't work, we have to understand how the programs were instituted in the first place. A politician wants to get more votes or keep the votes he has. He proposes a new government program to an interest group, something that will get them public money, directly or indirectly. The group is very happy with this proposal and supports the politician and his allies financially and politically. Why not? They spend a few hundred or a few thousand to get benefits worth ten or a hundred times as much. The opposition? They don't care,

really. This new government program will cost them, individually, only an extra ten bucks each year. Who is going to spend time and effort to save ten bucks?

This is the dynamic that has kept government growing since its inception. Small groups fight hard to get huge benefits, while the majority has little reason to fight against it, even if they oppose it.

What you have to understand is that this dynamic is still there, always, protecting the program from those who may wish it ended. This is why incremental cuts will never work, because you will earn the undying enmity of the program's supporters, while failing to excite the electorate and possibly even annoying them.

However, the "cut everything" approach will not work either. It is contrary to everything people have been raised with. They have been taught to believe that this entire government framework is necessary, even if there are some individual programs that they may not like. Absent proof we cannot supply, the great majority of voters will never believe that a libertarian society will work.

What to do, what to do? The only way I see to get a majority of people to support government cuts is to make it in their interest to do so. That means the cuts must be dramatic enough that their taxes will decrease by a, well, dramatic amount.

This is why I have asked our Legislative Director, Judd Ptak, to come up with an approximate state budget that will allow us to cut one whole method of taxation, the state income tax. This will not be easy. About half of the state budget is primary and secondary education. Cutting some programs will lose the state federal funds, which complicates the math. Some programs are mandated by the state constitution.

Still, with this budget, we will be able to ask the Harry Browne question; "Will you give up your favorite government programs if it means you will never have to pay income tax again?" It will give our candidates for state legislature something to campaign on, a unified theme, something to tell voters when they ask what is in it for them. "Give us a majority, we will do

"All or Nothing" continued on page 9

*"I have asked
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Boston T. Party Joins Convention

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Boston T. Party (a.k.a. Kenneth W. Royce) has agreed to speak at the Libertarian Party of Colorado's convention May 17-19 in Leadville. (Registration details are provided on pages 4-5.)

Boston is the author of *Boston's Gun Bible*, *Hologram of Liberty*, and numerous other books available from Javelin Press (<http://javelinpress.com>).

In an e-mail, he said, "Call my talk, 'To the clad foot, the world is covered in leather.' I will speak about the concept of my novel (which is due this fall) under this guise. This will be a premiere exclusive to the Colorado LP on the matter!"

Boston joins prolific libertarian author **L. Neil Smith**.

Joe Becker, another speaker at the convention, is on the editorial board for the *Journal of Libertarian Studies*

(www.mises.org/jlsdisplay.asp). Recently Legislative Director to U.S. Congressman Ron Paul of Texas, Becker now works in Colorado with the Mountain States Legal Foundation (www.mountainstateslegal.com).

Becker earned his law degree at Northern Illinois University College of Law, where he served as President and co-founder of the Federalist Society chapter and as an N.I.U. Law Review editor. He also received West Publishing's "Most Significant Contribution to Legal Scholarship" award for a published critique of the 20th century courts' artificial and disparate treatment of economic and other liberties.

More information about the convention and scheduled speakers is provided on pages 4-5.

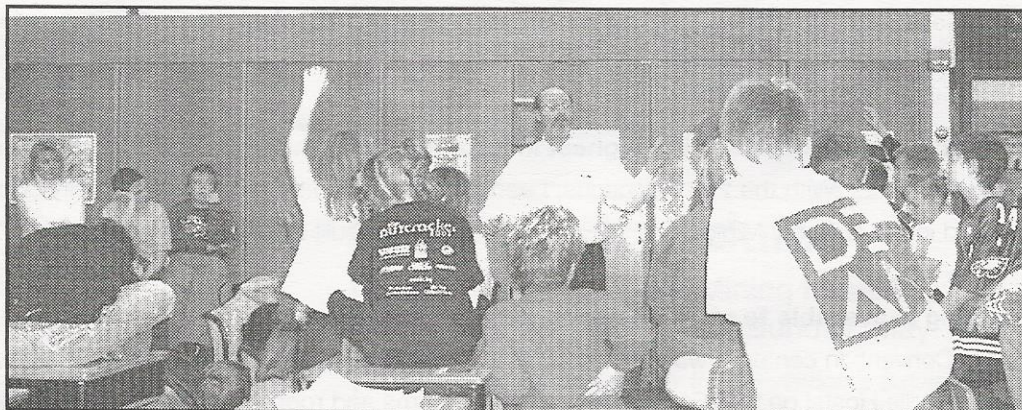
It's Elementary for Libertarian Teacher

by Tom Parker

Ralph Shnelvar had his hands full December 3 with 50 energetic fourth graders at Aurora 7 Elementary School in Boulder. Ralph spoke to the enthusiastic kids about the Bill of Rights, putting it into terms the kids could understand and relate to. The kids were very sharp and really got into it.

Ralph said, "It was wonderful teaching these kids. Kids have a basic sense of fairness that the Bill of Rights reflects. They're so young that they haven't had this sense of fairness beaten out of them yet. They understand the issues."

"What they don't understand," he continued, "is how precious these rights are. It is our duty as Libertarians and as human beings to instill in them knowledge and passion that will endure through the indoctrination



and regimentation of the middle years of school. It is my firm belief that teaching these kinds of classes will pay handsome dividends later. It may not be liberty in my lifetime, but with luck, it will be liberty in theirs."

Ralph concluded, "Anyway, doing this is fun and I'd like more people to step forward to do it. Just ask me how."



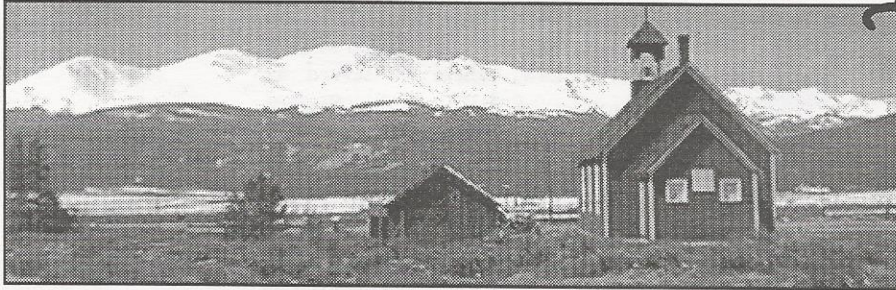
Boulder Honors Lights of Liberty Winners:

Boulder County LP members earned 10 of 20 Lights of Liberty awards issued in Colorado. In addition to those shown in the photo, John Ford and Judd Ptak earned an award. L-R: Lori Van Buren, Greg Woods, Elizabeth Bennett, Tom Parker, Tony Middleton, Chuck Wright, Joe Johnson, Norm Olsen (presenter), and Ralph Shnelvar. (Photo by Jennifer Hughson.) The award is presented by the Advocates for Self-Government (www.self-gov.org).

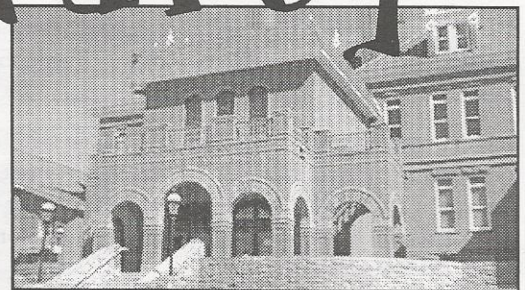
Libertarian

Colorado State Convention

May 17-19, 2002, Leadville, Colorado
National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum



Historic school house outside of Leadville—photos courtesy of www.leadville.com



National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum

Please join us for the 2002 Convention of the Libertarian Party of Colorado! Libertarian members and those interested in the ideas of liberty are welcome. On Friday evening, we'll gather for social events. On Saturday morning, we'll vote for our candidates and state board. Voting is open to all party members. Then, starting at 12:30 pm, come hear top speakers from around the state, including authors L. Neil Smith and Boston T. Party, Joe Becker, and Wayne Laugesen. Saturday evening features a banquet with Sheriff Bill Masters. On Sunday, we'll turn our attention to political strategy and activist training. Whether you can attend all three days or just Saturday, we hope to see you there!

At 10,430 feet, Leadville is the highest incorporated city in the United States. It is also one of Colorado's largest historic districts. With the 2001 elections, Leadville became home to a Libertarian city council. The 2002 Convention will be held in the National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum, built in 1900. The address is 120 West 9th Street.

Lodging is available to meet all needs. The Delaware Hotel on 700 Harrison Avenue is within easy walking distance of the Convention center. It was built in 1886 in a Victorian style. Call 800.748.2004. For those on a more frugal budget, the Leadville Hostel on 500 East 7th Street offers dorms and rooms for \$15 to \$20 per person. Group rates are available. Call 719.486.9334 or visit www.leadvillehostel.com. For complete information about hotels, beds-and-breakfast, campgrounds, and other lodging facilities, please see www.leadville.com or call the Chamber of Commerce at 719.486.3900.

☐ **Full-time Student Rate: \$25.**

☐ **Individuals: \$75. Couples: \$125 (for both). Children 16 and under: \$25.**

Prices include entrance to the convention for all three days, including the banquet. Lodging and other meals are not included. Space is limited, and prices increase by \$25 per person May 1.

Name(s) _____

E-mail _____

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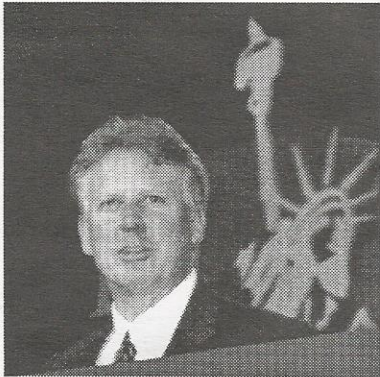
Make checks payable to Ari Armstrong and mail to Box 745015, Arvada, CO 80006.

For more information, see www.lpcolorado.org or contact ari@co-freedom.com or 303.412.8356.

Libertarian Party of Colorado 2002 Convention

May 17-19, 2002, Leadville, Colorado

speakers, guests, and schedule subject to change



Sheriff Bill Masters — “Drug War Addiction”

Masters is Colorado's highest-ranking Libertarian official and the nation's first Libertarian sheriff. He is the author of *Drug War Addiction: Notes from the Front Lines of America's #1 Policy Disaster*.

Meet other Libertarian officials: Carol Hill • Joe Swyers • Ken Cary • Lisa Dowdney • Robert Dempsey • and more!

James Vance and Ralph Shnelvar will compete for the LP's nomination for governor. Other candidates include Rick Stanley, Mark Holden, W. Earl Allen, and Norm Olsen.

L. Neil Smith — “Bill of Rights Enforcement”

Prometheus Award-Winning Science Fiction Author

Boston T. Party — “The Clad Foot”

Author of Boston's Gun Bible and numerous other books

Joe Becker — “Fighting for Liberty in D.C.”

Journal of Libertarian Studies, formerly with Ron Paul

Wayne Laugesen — “Media in a Free Society”

Editor, Boulder Weekly

Gregg Stone — “Freedom and Pop Culture”

Radio D.J. on KBPI, 106.7 FM

Dr. Shawn Elke Glazer — “Medical Freedom”

M.D., 2000 Libertarian Candidate for State House

Diana Hsieh — “Philosophy of Capitalism”

Lecturer for the Objectivist Center

Ed Quillen — “The Colorado Constitution”

Columnist, The Denver Post

Larry Welshon — “Market Education”

Co-founder, Alpine Valley School

Emma Phillips — “Drug War Injustices”

Families Against Mandatory Minimums

Stephen Rahe — “History of the Drug War”

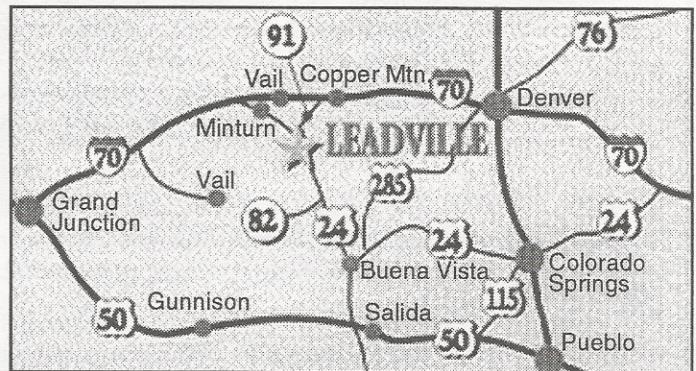
Epimethian Press

Terrence Carroll — “Dangers of Power”

Reverend, Colorado Progressive Coalition

Sue Armstrong — “Unpatriotic ‘Patriot’ Act”

Colorado Director, American Civil Liberties Union



Schedule

All events at the Mining Museum,
Friday, May 17 through Sunday, May 19.

The only meal provided by the convention is Saturday's banquet. Leadville offers a wide variety of dining options.

Friday 6:00 pm. Social, cash bar, suite parties.

• • •

Saturday 8:00 am. Candidate nominations, board elections, and other business. (Free to members.)

Saturday 12:30 pm. Speakers.

Saturday 6:30 pm. Social, cash bar.

Saturday 7:00 pm. Banquet,
featuring Sheriff Bill Masters.

• • •

Sunday 8:00 am till 3:00 pm. Political strategy, activist training, and sessions on theory and practice.

Sunday 3:00 pm. New board meets.

'Precursor' Bills Target Cold Medicine

by Tony Middleton

On December 19, Governor Owens announced his new plan to accelerate the insane war on drugs by criminalizing the possession of common grocery store items like cough medicine and batteries. In a misguided effort to protect Colorado from methamphetamine producers, the Governor is backing new bills that would restrict possession of common medicines and equipment.

Because of the increasing popularity of the drug, the Governor has declared, "The production of methamphetamine has become a law enforcement crisis in Colorado." Although manufacturing methamphetamine is already illegal, the Governor believes that he needs to protect us by further legislating behavior. He justified his actions by saying, "I am concerned about the public safety of our state's citizens in the event that a meth lab explodes or waste from one of these labs gets dumped in one of our neighborhoods."

The legislation will be introduced during the 2002 Legislative Session and will increase the penalties associated with manufacturing methamphetamine.

Senator Ken Gordon (D-Denver) and Representative Richard Decker (R-El Paso) have sponsored a bill that would create a felony for possessing "precursor" chemicals with the "intent" to manufacture meth. These "precursors" are found in cold medication and dietary supplements. The law would target Sudafed

and similar cold medications that contain the bronchodilator ephedrine.

The second piece of legislation—the clandestine lab bill, sponsored by Representative Abel Tapia (D-Pueblo) and Senator Ken Arnold (R-Adams/Broomfield/Boulder)—would make it a felony to possess chemicals, such as lithium metal found in batteries; supplies; or equipment with intent to manufacture methamphetamine. The law would even apply to the possession of battery acid and certain types of household cleaners. Will the law outlaw kitty litter, which is sometimes used to contain the by-products of meth production?

Once again the government is trying to enact legislation that endangers our freedoms by over-regulating normal products and normal behaviors. In the name of protecting us from speed freaks, our liberty will be further eroded. If the Governor really wanted to protect us from the "dangers" of meth production, then he would decriminalize the drug. The Schedule II drug is already safely manufactured by pharmaceutical companies without dangerous by-products and without causing house fires. If the drug were decriminalized, the meth labs would disappear.

Sadly, this isn't a solution that Republican or Democratic lawmakers can comprehend. Only the Libertarian Party is brave enough to make such a bold move. The Libertarian solution would protect us from both the dangers of meth labs and the dangers of overzealous law enforcement.

"If the drug were decriminalized, the meth labs would disappear."

LPEP Marches in Parade of Lights

Lady Liberty made her first appearance in the Colorado Springs Festival of Lights Parade on December 1. LPEP entered a float for LPCO into the parade, making history as the first political party to ever enter and be accepted into the parade. Its theme was "Give the Gift of Liberty."

The float featured Lady Liberty sitting in the back of a pickup truck covered in lights, including Old Glory on the hood. She was waving her torch to everybody as the parade wound its way through downtown, while Mannheim Steamroller Christmas music played and fellow marchers handed out LP cards laden with candy canes from Christmas stockings.

The response was fantastic. There were an estimated 130,000 people downtown for the parade, and tens of thousands more watched it on the local television station. Thousands of people, many of them children, shouted with delight when they saw Lady Liberty.

The *Gazette* ran an article about the LP entry prior to the event, generating advance publicity and more exposure for the party. Carol Geltemeyer, LPEP activities director, and Mike Seebeck, the float organizer, were interviewed for the story. Other people who helped with the event include Scott Graves, Ross Glidewell and family, Sarah Bunten, Steve Gresh, Mike Boyd, John Berntson, and Lidia Seebeck.

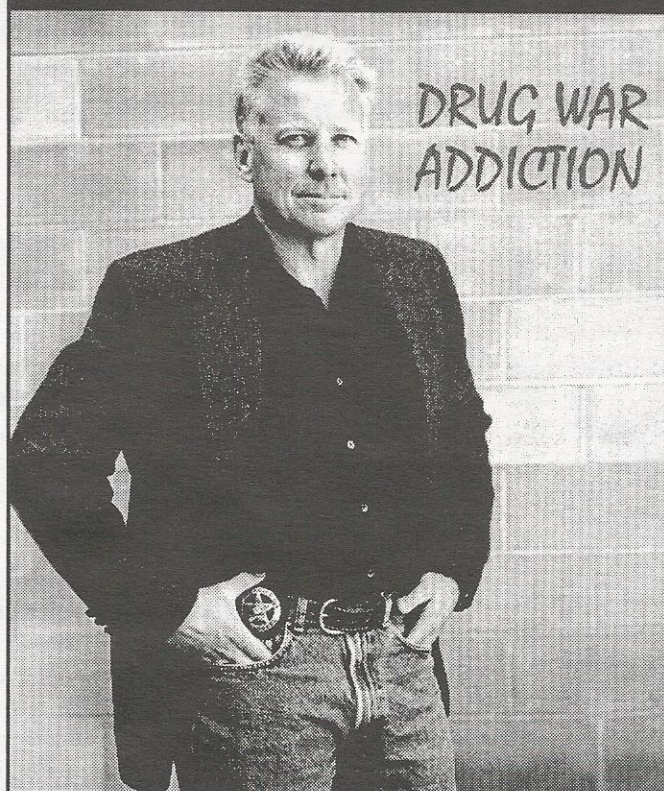
Shnelvar Addresses Terror Threat—Ralph Shnelvar gave a speech December 6 to a group of around 50 at the Longmont Public Library about the Libertarian perspective on terrorism. He made three main points. First, the United States has committed and continues to commit egregious forms of hegemony on sovereign states. Second, assuming information about

Afghanistan's complicity in breeding terrorist groups is correct, then the United States has every right to be doing battle there. Third, the violation of human rights as indicated by military tribunals via executive order and the recently passed "Patriot Act" are abominable. The Longmont *Times-Call* ran an article with a photo of Shnelvar the next day.

NEW from America's 1st Libertarian Sheriff...

DRUG WAR ADDICTION

NOTES FROM THE FRONT LINES
OF AMERICA'S #1 POLICY DISASTER



by Sheriff Bill Masters

"An early pioneer...Bill has an awful lot of courage for stating this: If you have a drug problem, you should go to the doctor, not to jail."

—Sheriff Bob Braudis, Pitkin County, Colorado

Sheriff Bill Masters fought the "Drug War." He was good at it. Through his real-world experiences as a law officer, he discovered the drug war is itself an addiction, more damaging to the fabric of American society than drugs could ever be.

Masters has served as sheriff of San Miguel County (Telluride), Colorado, since 1979. He argues police should spend their time getting violent criminals off the streets. He also seeks cultural renewal in our nation by returning to the principles of personal responsibility, simple laws, and limited government.

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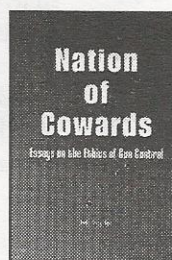
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Steer Clear of "Foolish Consistency"

"A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, adored by little statesmen and philosophers and divines. With consistency a great soul has simply nothing to do."

—Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Self Reliance"

by James Vance

There is great comfort in coming to a conclusion. Trust in a single conclusion significantly reduces the effort of solving all problems by eliminating the part where you decide if the solution is a good idea. People and societies have been solving problems this way for centuries. The Japanese ran their governments this way from the dawning of the Yellow Emperor to the arrival of American steamboats, resulting in one of the slowest rates of development of any civilization in history. Religions are so notorious for this that they've coined a special name for it, a name which has transferred into the realm of Politics as well: Fundamentalism. There exists no better way to stop progress in its tracks than to sign off on a "singular conclusion theory."

Original thoughts are not to blame for their flaws. Not even the greatest of thoughts down through history have ever been so flawless that they couldn't use improvement. Newton's laws of gravity were corrected with the advent of the theory of relativity. Our model of Euclidean space doesn't work at scales of less than 10^{-36} meters, or near strong gravity wells, which presents the need to rethink the concept. Centuries worth of great ideas perished when we accepted that the earth does in fact orbit the sun. Even the Greek concept of democracy had to be re-thought by the founding fathers. There comes a time in any idea's development when you have to just accept the little inconsistencies and publish.

Problems arise when men take an idea and attempt to apply it to all problems without consideration of its applicability. Psychology texts will tell you this concept is called the "Hammer Model." When your only tool is a hammer, every problem looks like a nail. Probably the most obvious version of this is the "throw money at it" mentality of our current society. In the technologies industry, the Hammer Model is most typically applied by simply throwing more processors at it. The popular slogan "What would Jesus do?" is another standard. I doubt that Jesus ever had to choose between studying for a meaningless exam and going snowboarding on 6 inches of fresh powder. So it becomes irrelevant to apply his teachings to this dilemma, but we do. Why? Comfort. It is more comfortable to fall back on false logic than it is to actually consider the consequences of one's actions.

Although I'm *certain* that everyone reading this is indeed without flaw, there exists within the Libertarian party a philosophical hammer or two. Deregulation and privatization are the cornerstones of our organization. These are strong ideas with vast application and far-reaching positive effects. Repeal of the national speed limit. Separation of church and state. Deregulation of the airline industry. Reduction of our armed forces in foreign nations. All of these initiatives, and more, have had unmistakable beneficial effects on our society. Much more can be done in this direction. Elimination of the Drug War, deregulation of the school system, privatization of utilities, and a nearly endless list of other applications come to mind.

They have such a vast range of utility that the battle cry for privatization and deregulation are our first instinctive reaction to new problems. Are our highways congested, poorly maintained, and generally inadequate? Libertarians cry out: "Privatize them!" Are pesky zoning ordinances in your way of doing what you want to do? The instinctive Libertarian response is to turn the entire city into a free-fire zone. What's this? The banking industry is far too complicated because of government rules and monitoring? Well, the solution is easy to Libertarians: Deregulate it! Aren't we all tired of being taxed? Well heck, simply eliminate the tax law. It's really far too difficult to find a new solution for every problem, right?

Unfortunately, it is absolutely necessary to carefully consider the downstream consequences of our idealist solutions. Take for example the problems created if you simply eliminate free education. The immediate net result is that you have also just lost the ability to require people to educate their children to today's academic standards. In the words of Einstein, "The problems that exist in the world today cannot be solved by the level of thinking that created them." I ask you to just imagine trying to solve these massive looming problems when the average education level drops because we just eliminated the public education system.

The Libertarian party is the party of principle. It is the party of clear thought as opposed to dogmatic adherence to outdated ideas. Our principles, our minds, and our ability to identify the harm in regulation are our strengths. We should never abandon discernment for dogged application of those principles. If we do, we risk turning our fundamental strength into fundamentalist folly.

James Vance is seeking the Libertarian Party's nomination for governor.

"[I]f you simply eliminate free education... you have also just lost the ability to require people to educate their children to today's academic standards."

Federalized Education a Failure

9

WASHINGTON, DC—The education bill signed on January 8 by President Bush will cause test scores to plummet and America's children to become more ignorant, Libertarians predict -- because that's what has happened after the enactment of every federal education bill over the past 30 years.

"The real education crisis in America is that politicians never seem to learn," said Steve Dasbach, Libertarian Party Executive Director.

"They haven't learned that government-run schools are the cause of student failures, and that the only way to improve education is to decrease the role of the federal government, give more power to parents, and move toward a genuine free-market system in education."

Yet decreasing federal power wasn't one of the so-called reforms in the education bill that Bush praised at signing ceremonies in Ohio, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire, while flanked by a beaming Senator Teddy Kennedy.

The legislation, which passed Congress last year with broad bipartisan support, mandates annual math and reading tests in grades 3-8, gives local school districts more "flexibility" in spending federal aid, and guarantees that parents may freely transfer children from one government-run school to another.

But the widely praised initiative is doomed to failure, predicted Dasbach, because history shows that more federal involvement in schools actually decreases student achievement. According to Department of Education figures:

Between 1970 and 1995, federal education spending nearly doubled, from \$19 billion to \$35 billion. Yet SAT scores fell by an average of 50 points. And since 1960, federal education spending has more than tripled, yet SAT scores have fallen by 100 points.

"The evidence is clear: More federal funding and involvement equal lower test scores," Dasbach said.

"And now George W. Bush has signed a bill that will make the problem worse. The new budget increases funding for the Education Department, which has squandered \$550 billion since 1980, by a whopping 40%."

Meanwhile, the reverse is true in private schools: They cost less money and deliver better results, Dasbach said.

The average private school tuition nationwide is \$3,116, or less than half the \$6,857 per pupil expenditure at government schools, according to the Center for Education Reform.

Yet private school students scored proficient in the 1994 National Assessment of Educational Progress reading test at 1.5 times the rate of public school students, and scored higher in math at every grade level.

So why do students do better at private schools?

The answer is simple, Dasbach said: "Private schools are rewarded only when they succeed, but government schools are rewarded even when they fail. As Education Department statistics show, government-run schools have been failing America's children for decades. Sadly, their latest reward for that failure came on Tuesday, when Democrats and Republicans increased their budget—again."

The solution, Dasbach said, is to decrease the role of federal bureaucrats in local education, eliminate meddlesome federal mandates, stop showering federal money on failing public schools, and work to give every child the opportunity to attend a private school.

"One simple way to improve education would be to enact a dollar-for-dollar tax credit to allow any individual or company to fund private tuition for any child or any private school," he said. "Until that first step is taken, politicians will continue to pretend that government schools can be reformed, and our children will be the losers."

"Private schools are rewarded only when they succeed, but government schools are rewarded even when they fail."

"All or Nothing" continued from page 1

these things." And when they ask, which they will, "Don't you really mean to cut all of government?" we can answer, truthfully, "No, not right away. We want to show people that they can get along without one set

of programs, before we cut more." Politics is the art of the doable.

We cannot afford to be too big or too small, too hot or too cold. We must be just right.

—John Berntson

T A N S T A F N !

"There ain't no such thing as a free newsletter." If you haven't contributed money to the LP, then somebody else is paying for your subscription. If you are a libertarian who enjoys reading this publication, please join the national/state party or subscribe for \$10 (see back cover). Thank you!

Affiliates Conference Builds Leadership

Representatives from eight Colorado counties met for an affiliates' conference January 19 in the Denver Tech Center.

The meeting was called to discuss "how to get an affiliate going and what to do with it," said State Chair John Berntson, who moderated the event.

The main goal of LP affiliates is to participate in elections. "We're the political arm of the libertarian movement," Berntson said, "and we exist to get votes."

Long-time party activist David Aitken of Denver agreed. He said local races "give our people background, experience, and credentials when they run for state representative." At the same time, running long-shot candidates for higher offices helps build name recognition for the Libertarian Party. Candidates should advertise the Libertarian name, added Boulder activist Chuck Wright.

Berntson encouraged affiliates to start looking for candidates now. Ideal candidates skillfully articulate

the libertarian philosophy and have the time and interest to run for office and serve in that office. They also have good "people skills." Those interested in running as Libertarian candidates should contact Campaigns Director Norm Olsen at 303.277.9967 or norm@rockware.com.

As Boulder Chair Joe Johnson explained, however, in order to run candidates we must first recruit activists. Thus, affiliates must also seek to gain new members. LP activists can run outreach booths at various events, get involved with the media, participate in community service projects, join protests, speak about libertarian issues, and advocate pro-freedom policies at the local and state levels.

Representatives from Boulder and El Paso said they actively seek new memberships for their local affiliates and publish a local newsletter. Johnson said Boulder is currently conducting a mail campaign to encourage national and state LP members to get involved at the local level.

*"The more loudly
we raise our
voices, the
sooner we
will reclaim our
lost liberty."*

Stanley Sparks 'Bill of Rights Campaign'

Repeal all unconstitutional laws. That was the theme of a January 16 rally led by Rick Stanley at Lincoln Park near the state capitol.

"The next rally will be held February 23," said David Bryant, a volunteer on Stanley's Senatorial campaign. "We're starting a nationwide chain of events. We already have people participating in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, and California. The more loudly we raise our voices, the sooner we will reclaim our lost liberty."

Some 75 people attended the event, and Channel 7 News aired part of Stanley's speech at 10:00 that

evening. Stanley was arrested at the same park December 15 for practicing civil disobedience. He carried a gun openly on his hip in willful violation of a Denver ordinance that violates the state and federal constitutions.

Other speakers included gubernatorial candidates James Vance and Ralph Shnelvar, Dan Cochran, and David Segal.

Stanley's speech may be found on his web page at www.stanley2002.org. The page also links to information about the "National Bill of Rights Campaign."

Aitken Proposes Redistricting Plan

The LP has taken a step to inject a modicum of rational thinking into the political system with the drafting of a congressional redistricting plan that meets the constitutional requirements without any of the gerrymandering practiced by both Democrats and Republicans.

The proposed plan closely adheres to county boundaries and considers local communities in drawing the boundaries. The population difference between the largest and smallest of the seven proposed districts is just 7,248, about 1.18 percent of the optimum population (614,466). Neither party affiliation nor incumbency was considered in drawing the boundaries.

The proposed layout is similar to the current map, with the new district, CD 7, made up of Arapahoe, eastern Douglas, Elbert, and eastern El Paso counties. CD 1 is mostly Denver; CD 2 is Boulder and most of Adams county; CD 3 is the western slope; CD 4 is the eastern plains, including Larimer county; CD 5 is Teller, western El Paso (including Colorado Springs), and the city of Pueblo; and CD 6 is Jefferson and parts of Douglas county. While the plan was completed too late to meet official deadlines, it was sent to the judge handling the case for consideration. David Aitken drafted the plan with the help of Boulderite Craig Johnson. It took about 40 hours to complete and can be viewed on the LPCO website, www.lpcolorado.org.

Press Watch: Libertarians in the News

11

News Prints Stanley Correction

On December 19, the *Rocky Mountain News* printed the following correction on page 2A. "A story on page 16A Tuesday should have reported that Rick Stanley, a Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, and Duncan Philp were arrested for challenging a Denver ordinance that bars openly carrying a deadly weapon."

Stanley's gun is better described as a "self-defensive weapon." On January 4, the *News* mentioned Stanley in a page 7A article by Todd Hartman.

Libertarians Respond to Gaede

The Denver Post published an article about Libertarianism written by Leadville Mayor Chet Gaede. On December 23, the *Post* published letters of response from Ari Armstrong, Chris Erickson, and Larry Hoffenberg. Armstrong's letter follows.

I appreciate both Chet Gaede's thoughtful consideration of Libertarianism ("Some observations of Libertarian philosophy," Dec. 16 Perspective) and *The Post's* willingness to give the discussion a public forum.

Gaede writes, "There is a natural tension between government and individual liberty." Libertarians disagree. The whole purpose of government is to protect individual liberty.

Gaede wonders how Libertarians would handle the safety of, say, an amusement park ride. Libertarians would indeed require persons "to compensate society for any harm done by his business." In some respects, a Libertarian government would be much more proactive in enforcing restitution that Gaede seems to advocate.

Legislated standards such as Gaede calls for suffer several problems.

First, the mandated standards sometimes prevent businesses from adopting even safer practices that conflict with the legislation. Legislators rarely keep pace with technology. Second, legislation is often passed in order to protect special interest groups rather than the public. Third, legislated standards often serve as an excuse for businesses so they don't have to achieve real safety. "It's not our fault! We met all the mandates!"

Libertarians advocate responsibility, not excuse-making.

Campus Libertarians Speak Up

Boulder's *Colorado Daily* published letters by CU Campus Libertarians Brian Schwartz and Matt

Zenthoefer on December 13. Schwartz wrote, "Both Right wing and Left wing ideologues are Authoritarians: they regard individuals as simply a means to achieve what they call the 'greater good,' or the 'good of society,' or 'progress,' and grant people freedom when it's convenient for their political ends. For libertarians, progress is not making laws to force people to do what you want; instead, progress means more individual freedom. By freedom, libertarians mean that all human relationships should be voluntary... No one, not even elected officials, has the right to forbid voluntary associations among people..."

More Press Watch items may be found at www.lpcolorado.org.

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added, "This will give Libertarians some experience in dealing with the wide range of issues that face councilors or any legislative body."

Swyers said of his colleagues, "They are all very strong personalities and strong classical liberals." He said the main two goals of the council are to restrain the budget and reduce the burden of property regulations. He wants to "turn loose the power of free enterprise to resurrect our economy, something we ought to do on a national scale." One of Swyers' pet peeves is a local ordinance that restricts fireworks more than state law does. He wants to repeal that ordinance.

Swyers said the success of Libertarians in Leadville should encourage others in the party to run for winnable local offices. "Libertarians as a party have become so used to not winning that it's become a mindset." He said running for local offices brings two advantages.

"First, the public gets experience with us, with classical liberals and that whole philosophy." He said that some people may be nervous about electing Libertarians to office when they have no track record. Serving in a local office lets people see that Libertarians can lead responsibly.

"Second, Libertarians get a chance to serve in office. Then we don't make those naive, greenhorn mistakes in higher races." Libertarians in office are able to "communicate with constituents and also learn to negotiate and compromise to accomplish things." He said establishing priorities is one of the main challenges Libertarians in Leadville and elsewhere face.

As an example of how local service can lead to higher office, Swyers referred to Ken Chlouber and Carl Miller, both of whom served as county commissioners before winning a seat in the state legislature. He said Libertarians on the council have the opportunity to run for higher offices in the future as well.

Longtime Libertarian Hill said, "The main thing for me is to get the budget under control and stop spending the city's reserves." She said she wanted to end some taxes and repeal some of the zoning ordinances.

Hill said the council must take care to remain in the good graces of the community. "This community can get really energized. We are going to have to make an extra effort to keep people informed and keep people with us. They're willing to give us the benefit of the doubt." She added, "Local politics truly is very personal. We have to keep in mind that I was elected as a citizen of Leadville, not as a Libertarian."

She added, "I'm really excited. If we play our cards right, we can accomplish a lot. If we do it right, I think

people will come to understand they are much more libertarian than they realize. 'Libertarian' is the word that describes a lot of people's beliefs. Having a Libertarian majority is unique. Having a libertarian philosophy on the council is not unique." She said Libertarians basically invoke the principles on which our country was founded, those outlined in the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

Hill agrees with Swyers that Libertarians should run for local races, gain experience, and get involved with their communities. She cited a recent article by Pennsylvania LP chair Lois Kaneshiki that encourages local involvement. Hill remains chair of the Lake County Board of Adjustments and has served on that board since 1994. She also served on the Lake County Planning and Zoning board for three years and on a jail committee for three years.

Dowdney said, "I'm thrilled with both Carol and Ken coming on." She has also served on the council since 2000, and prior to that she served for four years on the council before taking a break. Dowdney joined the LP shortly after Hill and Cary won their elections.

"I want to cut back on wasteful spending," Dowdney said. For example, she said the city currently collects a \$50 tax on businesses. "If we don't do anything for that \$50, we shouldn't be charging it."

A number of Libertarians drove to Leadville to witness the historic occasion. Ralph Shnelvar drove a group from Boulder that included Ari Armstrong, David Aitken, Ron Bain, Jerry van Sickle, and Larry Hoffenberg. Mark Holden, Steve Gresh, BetteRose Smith, and Tony Ryan also attended. Following the ceremony and a reception, the group headed to a local pub to celebrate.

Shnelvar, who is running for governor, said, "It was a historic evening. They look like the finest bunch of people I've ever seen on a city council."

Gresh, who ran for school board in Colorado Springs this past election, said, "What Leadville is showing Libertarians is it's possible to actually use practical, political ideas to gain control of a body of government.

"The Libertarians on the city council will keep us—the rest of the Libertarian Party—informed of what they're able to accomplish, and they will provide an excellent model for us to follow as we run campaigns. We'll have some real-world references, rather than just philosophical discussions about what Libertarians can do when they're in office."

The State Board welcomes **Gaar Potter** of Denver as the new Treasurer. Anyone who wishes to assist the party with outreach should contact John Berntson at 719.532.0118 or jkbcolosp@aol.com.

"We'll have some real-world references, rather than just philosophical discussions about what Libertarians can do when they're in office."

L. Neil Smith Paints Portrait of Liberty

by Ari Armstrong

The American Zone is a sequel to L. Neil Smith's libertarian classic *The Probability Broach*. Win Bear is a detective who lived in a socialistic version of the United States. He was transported to a parallel universe in which people thrive in a libertarian North American Confederacy. In the new book, published in December, a skyscraper is bombed, leading to predictable calls for big government. Bear's job is to solve the crime. Smith's novel could hardly be more timely.

Smith is arguably the most significant libertarian science fiction writer living today, and he is one of the most prominent libertarian writers in general. He recently won the the Prometheus Award for *Forge of the Elders*, an award he's earned twice before. He also recently came out with *Hope*, a book he co-authored with Aaron Zelman of Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership. The pair previously published *The Mitzvah*.

The title page of *Zone* assures us, "All the characters and events portrayed in this novel are either fictitious or are used fictitiously." Keep this firmly in mind as you encounter characters with names like "Bennett Williams," "Allard Wayne," and "Buckley F. Williams." They are the right-wing advocates of socialism in the novel. They are also suspects in the bombing.

Also on the list of suspects are left-wing socialists in the Majoritarian Society, and big-government environmentalists. The plot is the perfect device for Bear to traipse around the Confederacy, noticing the differences between the free world he lives in and the statist world he came from. And Bear, accompanied by the sharp-tongued philosopher Lucille G. Kropotkin, talks politics with friend and foe along the trail.

Libertarians will probably have the most fun simply imagining with Smith what it would be like to live in a fully free society. Defense is handled by citizens' militias, justice is assured by the voluntary Civil Liberties Association, and the market is entirely free. Medicine, space travel, and technology of every sort are marvelously advanced relative to the United States, and the level of personal wealth is several times higher.

Here in our world, two dominant schools of libertarian strategy have emerged in the last few years. One school is epitomized by the Advocates for Self-Government. Mary Ruwart, Michael Cloud, and Carla Howell are leaders of this school. They focus on improving communication skills so that libertarians can present their principled views in ways that resonate with people.

The other school might aptly be called the "defibrillator school" of libertarianism. This school, led by Vin Suprynowicz, Claire Woolfe, and L. Neil Smith, holds that plainly speaking the stark truth will shock enough Americans into thinking for themselves that we may just be able to restore our freedoms.

Generally, the first camp is more active in the LP, whereas the later is a little skeptical of it. That is not to say the two schools necessarily conflict. Indeed, Smith acknowledges LP founder David Nolan and Advocates founder Marshall Fritz, and Smith himself was on the ballot for president in Arizona.

Hope is about a writer who wins the presidency in 2008 on the Libertarian ticket. *The Libertarian Enterprise* (TLE, www.webleyweb.com/tle/index.html), which Smith publishes, links to a petition to draft him for President in 2004.

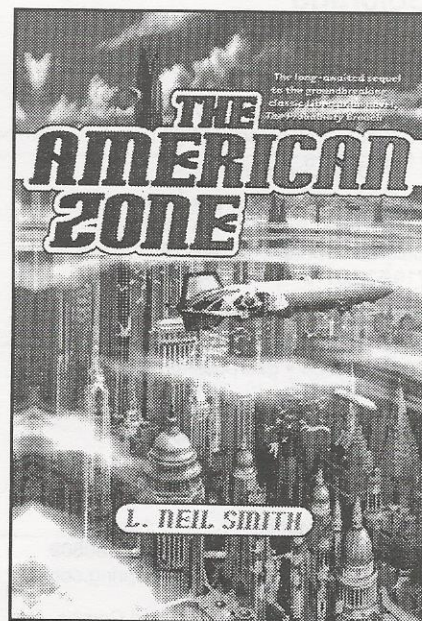
In *Zone* (pages 293-4), Smith makes some criticisms of a "Freedom-Lover's Party" that he evidently means to apply also to the LP. Yet, in the January 7 edition of TLE (Issue 155), Smith writes, "I've always believed our first task must be to gather up those who agree with us, before we go out to capture hearts and minds. It may even be time to set aside old feuds within the movement."

Smith maintains his own to-the-point and iconoclastic style. Bear says, "Most people don't realize [Benjamin Franklin] was the father of corporate socialism... in Revolutionary America. It was his intention that the government would accomplish everything it undertook by granting monopolies to certain 'deserving' parties. That's how... he wound up in charge of the government postal monopoly" (59).

Should we be surprised that a girl purchases a machine gun and morphine for her parents at "Mr. Suprynowicz" general store? Lucy sugar-coats Smith's critique of the state: "Politicos to the right of center justify their trespasses against privacy an' personal freedom in the name of 'decency' or 'national security.' Those to the left suppress individual economic self-determination an' the right to own and carry weapons in the name of 'public safety' or 'social justice,' but it's all a pack of lies meant to put a pretty face on thuggery an' armed robbery" (152).

Sometimes Smith has a quieter appeal: "My guess is that he'd be happy just being a waiter at Mr. Meep's. The simple truth is that we'd all be—if we could do it in a free country" (348).

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Contacts—The Libertarian Party of Colorado

Please send updates and corrections to Ari Armstrong at ari@co-freedom.com or 303.412.8356. Meeting times and locations subject to change without notice. For information on how to start a local affiliate or campus organization, contact Brian Rachocki at rachocki@earthlink.net or 303.814.0272.

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Lunch after meeting

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LIBERTY CALENDAR

February • March 2002

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SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

Key Dates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill of Rights Rally, February 23, noon, State Capitol • Douglas County LP, Campaign Kickoff, March 7. • Colorado LP Convention, May 17-19. See pages 4-5. 				February 1		2 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County SoCO Lib. Alliance
3	4 Boulder Lunch	5 El Paso County Fort Collins	2 Broomfield	3 Jefferson County	8	9 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County
10	11 Boulder Lunch	12 El Paso County Southside Boulder Board of Directors	13 Routt County	7 Boulder Board	15	16 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan Four Corners
17	18 Boulder Lunch	19 El Paso County	20	21	22	23 Denver LP Rally Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County
24	25 Boulder Lunch	26 El Paso County	27 El Paso Business	28		

				March 1		2 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County SoCO Lib. Alliance
3	4 Boulder Lunch	5 Fort Collins El Paso County	6 Broomfield	7 Douglas County Campaign Kickoff Jefferson County	8	9 Denver Breakfast Fort Morgan El Paso County
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